



CAMP DIRECTOR'S REPORT 1977

KAMP KANAWANA 1977

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Well we made it! Kamp Kanawana has ended leaving behind rich memories for hundreds of people. From the time we started to work on K.K. '77, I sensed it was going to be a good year. It was the best year the Kamp has had in the last 5 years. This report may seem overly optimistic but it is, as written - a report on a super summer.

This year is a turning point for dear old Kanawana. The bulldozers have started work for the new year round site. As this is the last year of K.K. as we've known it, this report will mention some of the highlights and statistics of 1977 with some relevant recommendations for the first year of the renovated and new Kanawana sites.

KAMPERS:

For some reasons, unknown to me, registration at summer camps was very low this year. Kanawana was not unaffected by this trend, as we also saw a significant decrease in our registration with our actual figure of 1174 kamper weeks.

We worked with 414 different children. The returnee rate of kampers was the highest in at least 10 years, with the figure of 54.8% (vs the previous high from 1975 of 46.8%). For details see Appendix A.

STAFF:

A most significant feature of this summer was our staff. Their cooperative spirit was at a high all summer. It was not uncommon to observe staff working above and beyond the call of duty. In my 19 years of camping, I don't believe I've seen a finer and more dedicated crew of people working at any camp. I believe any camp director would be proud as I was, of such a fine group.

The average age of program staff was 20.7 years with 66% of these being former Kanawanians. During the summer, two staff were dismissed for behavioural reasons. It was unfortunate but necessary to adhere to our policies of work at Kanawana.

Our Assistant Kamp Director, Kerry Finucan, deserves a special mention here. Many of the programs that I've wanted to see happen at K.K. did happen this summer. Under Kerry's excellent direction, a more flexible and relevant system of interest groups was successfully carried out. His mature, energetic and innovative approach to Kanawana and his job, made him a real asset to the Kamp and myself. I congratulate and thank Kerry for his great work. Kanawana will be truly fortunate to have him back in '78.

To the staff of 1977, a well deserved thanks....

The staff of 1977 were:

Cynthia Aboud	Senior Girls Rover-Counsellor
Susan Ambrose	Junior Girls Rover-Counsellor
Brian Arbuthnot	Senior Boys Section Director
Joanne Armstrong	Waterfront Auxiliary
Susan Armstrong	Junior Girls Rover-Counsellor
Michael Arscott	Senior Boys Counsellor
Steve Bauman	Junior Waterfront Director
Chris Bishop	Senior Boys Counsellor
Claude Boucher	Senior Girls Counsellor
Ian Chester	Senior Boys Counsellor
Christiane Corbin	Kitchen
Kelly Curliss	Business Office Assistant
Susan Davis	Junior Girls Counsellor
Susan Dean	Senior Girls Counsellor
Jean-Claude Deglaire	Chef
Trudy Duivenvoorden	Junior Girls Section Director
Patricia Evans	Junior Girls Counsellor
Kerry Finucan	Assistant Kamp Director
Bill Flaschner	Senior Boys Counsellor
Kevin Forster	Junior Boys Section Director
Geoffrey Fox	Business Office Manager
Richard Fray	Junior Boys Counsellor
Cathy Fryer	Senior Girls Section Director
Nancy Fulford	Senior Girls Tripper-Counsellor
Ross Gill	Kitchen
Julie Greenwood	Kitchen
David Grimala	Senior Boys Counsellor
Olga Hall	Camp Secretary
David Hart	Junior Boys Counsellor
John Hergel	Junior Boys Counsellor
Richard (Itche) Kerr	Counsellor-in-Training Director
Amy Kuntz	Kitchen
Jacques Labelle	Maintenance
Terry Lamb	Hike & Trip Auxiliary & Counsellor
Michel Lane	Truck Driver

Staff List continued

Tony Latimer	Junior Boys Rover-Counsellor
Burke Lawrence	Tripper
John Lawrence	Senior Boys Counsellor and Hike & Trip Auxiliary
Genevieve L'Esperance	Junior Girls Rover-Counsellor
Sharon Levine	Doctor
Adele (Misty) McKay	Junior Girls Counsellor
Alison Marshall	Senior Girls Counsellor
Beverley Membride	Junior Girls Counsellor
Melanie Moynan	Nurse
David O'Donnell	Canoeing Director
David Paltiel	Junior Boys Counsellor
Bill Perras	Maintenance
Wendy Prince	Junior Girls Counsellor
Peter Reizes	Senior Boys Tripping-Counsellor
Jeff Roberts	Les Voyageurs Director
Eric Sandmark	Arts & Crafts Assistant
Peter Sandmark	Junior Boys Counsellor
Stewart Sandmark	Arts & Crafts Director
John Savage	Kitchen
Nancy (Chad) Sawyer	Assistant Hike & Trip Director
Kate Schissler	Nurse's Assistant
John Siverson	Maintenance
Don Smith	Doctor
Donald Southern	Hike & Trip Director
Julien Tasse	Maintenance Supervisor
Yves Tasse	Maintenance
Lisa Taylor	Senior Girls Counsellor
Rod Taylor	Junior Boys Counsellor
David Townson	Senior Boys Rover-Counsellor
David Vaillancourt	Kitchen
Al Vaughan	Senior Waterfront Director
Robert Woodhouse	Les Voyageurs Tripper

STAFF TRAINING:

Training of staff started early in May with twenty-seven of our program staff successfully completing the standard St. John's Ambulance first-aid course. This was paid for by the Quebec Workmen's Compensation Board. In addition, staff were sent to the following courses and conferences:

Ontario Camping Association Conference - 4 people
Ontario Camping Association Counsellors Workshop - 1 person
Quebec Camping Association Conference - 6 people
Canadian Yachting Association Instructors Course - 1 person
Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association
Instructors School - 2 people
Archery Instructors School - 1 person
National Woodsmanship School - 1 person
Visits to St. Hilaire Conservation Centre - 2 people
YMCA Aquatics Instruction School - 1 person

The 8 day pre-kamp program was good and only minor modifications should be considered for next year. It was augmented beforehand by a 28 page staff manual which was developed by the staff committee last winter.

Some of this season's success was due to many things. I believe the staff manual and the pre-kamp program both contributed significantly to this.

In '78 our training and assistance for training courses should continue.

PROGRAM:

I was very impressed with the program this summer. The modification of interest groups to make them coed and varying the length, proved to be very desirable for all and should be considered for '78. There are some other modifications that could be made and should be considered for next season.

All program areas operated very well this summer. Hike & Trip, both waterfronts, Arts & Crafts all ran well. Thanks to Don Southern, Al Vaughan and Stewart Sandmark, I do not have any suggestions for improvement in these areas.

An interest group which was brought back this year (from 1972) was rock climbing. It proved to be very popular and hopefully will continue in 1978.

Program continued

Due to a grant from the Federal Government Young Canada Works Program, we were able to accomplish a number of things that I've wished to do since 1973. These included:

- trails around Lakes Kanawana and Wilson
- building and improving campsites
- construction of a Hebertism course
This course will require a couple of days work by someone knowledgeable with ropes.
First indications are that it will be a very popular program area next summer.

Some of the special programs we experienced included:

Christmas Day	Swim meet with Lac Marois Association
Topsy-Turvy Day	The Energetic Company (skits on energy conservation)
Kanawana 500 cross-country car rally	Santa Claus Parade
Olympics Day	Klondyke Day
World Record Day	Derek Walsh invitation all golf tournament
Fishermen's Supper	Pyjama Breakfasts
Litter Lunches, etc.	Lumbermen-Voyageur Competitions (Lumbermen won)
Green Triangle Banquet	

A special mention to the Junior Boys Section Director, Kevin Forster who initiated a number of the above in his section.

During the summer, almost every Kanawanian had some sort of overnight experience. Our truck travelled over 19,000 miles, with trips to Vermont, 31 Mile Lake, Post River, White Fish Reservoir, Mont Laurier, Lac Legare & Clear Lake among other regions.

Hike & Trip statistics:

Backpacking trips (Vermont)	6
Extended canoe trips	19
Local hikes & overnights	38
Sneakouts	<u>12</u>
Total number of Out-trips	75
Total number of People Nights	1196

Some specific recommendations for '78 programs are:

- update staff manual for the two kamps.
- consider and study modifications to present systems.
- have Assistant Kamp Director spend more time in May studying program ideas.
- assign one person to Hebertism course to train staff, supervise and maintain course.
- look closely at present equipment and resources with a view to replenishing for next summer, ie program equipment, Hike & Trip equipment, watercraft.

STAFF COMMITTEE:

Since last December, a group of 12 K.K. staff have worked with me planning for this summer. Some items dealt with, developed or recommended were:

- staff manual
- policies for staff and kampers
- interest group system
- C.I.T. program
- staff agreement
- building plans, etc.

This work not only was a big help to Kanawana but also developed a commitment to Kamp at an early stage. The committee should continue to operate in the development of our plans of our two site operation next year.

COUNSELLOR-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM:

For the first time since I've been at Kanawana, I can say we had an excellent 8 week C.I.T. program. Under its Director, Itche Kerr, the group of 13 C.I.T.s were exposed to on-the-job training in virtually every area of Kamp.

Also included were:

- a 6 day canoe trip
- Bronze Medallion lifesaving course
- C.I.T. exchange with the YWCA's Camp Oolahwan and the Lac Marois Association
- skill sessions in canoeing, campcraft, sailing, etc.
- sessions in group dynamics, philosophies of camping, the YMCA and Kamp Kanawana.
- etc.

If any, only minor alterations are required for the C.I.T. program next year (other than looking at how it will operate in 2 sites). The success of the program was due to Itche for the commendable way he ran it.

HEALTH & SAFETY:

Again this year we were fortunate to have a resident doctor. Doctors Sharon Levine (Section Director 1973) and Don Smith were always available to treat all the aches, pains, scrapes, etc. of our 250 or so people at Kamp. Our Nurse, Melanie Moynan did an admirable job in coping with the general running of the hospital, feeding patients, etc.

One thing that I believe helped our health situation this summer was the use of disposable dishes in our kitchen. So much so that I recommend they be used at both sites next year.

The actual number of colds, sore throats, etc. did decrease from '76. During the summer, 2 kampers were sent home due to accidents and 2 due to illness. Two staff were hospitalized in Montreal - one for appendicitis and the other for unknown reasons. Overall it was a relatively healthy summer at Kamp.

FOOD SERVICES:

A year ago, I recommended that we increase our food spending by 30%. I now believe that in so doing a right decision was made. Our food service was managed by Bob Gill of Fan Fare Foods. I have nothing but praise for Bob and our Chef, Jean-Claude Deglaire for the fine job that was done this summer. I know there is still room for improvement but nevertheless it was still more satisfactory this summer than it has been in the last five years.

In terms of our survey, here are the results of Food Services (as answered by the kampers' parents).

Question: From what you have heard, how would you rate the food?

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Excellent	9%	8%	6%	32.66%
Very Good	25%	34%	17%	36.86%
Good	35%	37%	44%	24.14%
Fair	23%	19%	23%	5.6%
Poor	5%	2%	10%	1.42%

MAINTENANCE:

It was a busy summer for Julien Tasse and his crew as we began some of our planned renovations. I'm still overwhelmed at the amount of patching up, transplants, repair work and construction that this man does every summer. Kanawana is truly fortunate to have such a capable caretaker as Julien, particularly during this time of construction and renovation.

Some of the things done this summer over and above the regular repairs and maintenance included:

- replacing the Kamp sign
- erecting a new gate
- painting the caretaker's house
- staining and painting the Lodge and Business Office building
- repair and repainting the 16 rowboats
- installing a new septic tank for the B.O.
- replacing or repairing various doors, balconies, cabins, etc.

A special thanks to our Arts & Crafts Director, Stewart Sandmark who made the new signs for Kamp Kanawana and the Outing Club.

PROMOTION:

The amount of money spent on promotion was minimal as compared to a few years ago. I am not convinced that it is really necessary to spend large sums of money, however, due to our lower registration, it must be considered for '78.

This year's promotion included the following:

- 2300 brochures were distributed via phone inquiries, YMCA branches and staff.
- a calendar-review was again produced - 1000 copies were sent to '76 Kanawanians and friends of K.K.

Promotion continued

- The Montreal YMCA placed numerous ads in several Montreal newspapers.
- Kanawana was listed in the American directory of schools and camps as well as the Quebec Camping Association directory (14,000 distributed).
- On behalf of the Q.C.A. I was interviewed on CFCF, CJAD, CBC and CJFM radio stations.
- Feature articles appeared in the Montreal Star and Gazette for which I was interviewed on behalf of the Q.C.A.
- Six issues of the Green Triangle were sent to all '76 Kanawanians.
- A K.K. birthday card was developed and sent to all Kanawanians on their birthdays.
- The Kanawana reunion was held in April with over 200 kampers attending.
- Kanawana participated in a booth at the Conference of the Quebec Federation of the Home & School Association.

As the following will show most of our new kampers hear about Kanawana from friends or neighbours. Here is the result of our post-kamp questionnaire:

Question: If your child was a new Kanawanian this year, how did you hear about Kamp Kanawana?

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Friend or neighbour	30%	8%	51%	47%
YMCA Branch	15	20	18	19
Q.C.A.		6	3	7
Advertising	14.9	9	7	4

Promotion continued

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
School	2	4	1	4
Relative of former kamper	36	20	20	9
K.K. Staff member				5
Newspaper article				3
Kanawana Outing				
Club member				2

MONTREAL OFFICE:

It was a busy year for our camp secretary, Olga Hall. The extra work related to the building and renovations of K.K. as well as the Camp Director being President of the Q.C.A. substantially increased her work load. For her continued dedication, optimism and support I am very thankful. I know the parents of kampers appreciate her efficient and pleasant ways of handling the office.

1978

During the past year, the Branch Building Committee has refined the plans for the new construction and renovation of the Kanawana property. 1978 will initiate a two site operation. The present site will have 98 senior kampers while the new year round site, at the west end of Lake Kanawana beyond Farewell Rock, will house 98 juniors.

During the summer, a group of us visited three YMCA year round camps in the U.S. Much was learned from an architectural, engineering and program standpoint that will be of value for the future.

Currently the work being done is as follows:

- renovation of block house and farm house
- enclosing and renovating the dining hall
- relocating tent platforms in the new and old sites
- erecting a new shower building in the senior section

During the winter some buildings will be relocated or demolished. By June 1978 the new site will be in operation with four double self-contained living units, six tent platforms and a large multi-purpose dining-recreation hall.

The project will cost approximately \$850,000. We have hired three additional fulltime maintenance people to assist in the carrying out of the above work.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS :

1. This year buses were rented from the Laurentians rather than Montreal. This enabled us to have a 3 hour break at Kamp between groups. It was also less expensive. This arrangement proved successful and should be continued in 1978.
2. Our revised policies (as written in the staff manual) regarding cigarettes in Kamp for staff and kampers was well accepted by parents and Kanawanians alike. These should be maintained next year.
3. The introduction of health food and fruit juices in the Business Office was well received by both staff and kampers. This should be done again in 1978.
4. Virtually all staff from '77 could be rehired in '78. There are, however, a small number that should not be considered. The personnel confidential file in the Camp Office should be consulted for details.
5. Due to the operation of 2 sites next year, it will be necessary to keep our staff, parents and kampers informed of the changes. Perhaps a bulletin explaining the physical and program changes should be widely circulated.
6. The non-refundable deposit required for the registration of kampers should be increased substantially next year. Since June 1st, 1977, there were 108 kamper weeks of cancellations.
7. Consideration should be given to a program of replacing all canoes and rowboats with low maintenance ones, (ie aluminum or whatever). This could be done over a 5 to 10 year period.

CONCLUSION:

As I said at the beginning of this report, this year was the best of the last five years at Kamp Kanawana.

The following response from the parents of this summer's kampers indicates this. It gives me a feeling of satisfaction to know that the hard work of recent years on my part and that of the staff has been worthwhile and as a result the Kamp has steadily improved.

Question - What is your appraisal of Kanawana?

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Excellent	28%	29%	30%	39.42%
Very Good	60	56	53	54.02
Good	12	14	13	6.57
Fair	0	.5	4	0
Poor	0	.5	0	0

Certainly, the success of Kanawana is due to a lot of people. To our Board of Management and Chairman Phil Davey, a thank you from the YMCA and Kamp Kanawana for their constant advice, support and hard work.

To our kampers, I shall always be indebted to you - for it is you that make all this worthwhile.

It is hoped that this report will be of value to those who worked at Kamp this summer and as well to those who will plan for '78.

To the future successes of Kamp Kanawana.

Respectfully submitted,

Derek V. Walsh,
Director of Camping.

APPRECIATION:

Appreciation is expressed to the following who contributed to the success of Kanawana.

Ivanhoe Corporation for permitting us to use the parking lot of the Dorval Gardens Shopping Centre as the Montreal terminal for kamper transportation.

The staff of the Montreal YMCA for their continued encouragement and cooperation.

Our 13 C.I.T.s for their work and assistance at Kamp this summer.

Our many neighbours around Kamp who so willingly permit us to use their properties and assist us in many ways.

The Drug Companies who so generously donated medications and supplies for our infirmary, Burroughs Wellcome, Cooper Laboratories, Connaught, Parke-Davis, A. H. Robins, Schering Corporation, Sterling Drug, Syntex, Upjohn Company, Winthrop Laboratories.

George Balcan and Jack Finnigan of CJAD radio who spoke about some of our programs this summer.

To Canadian Erectors Limited and its President Stanley Hawkins.

To Jim Simpkins for his donation of the design of our Kanawana birthday card.

To Montreal Copy Centre for various free printings.

To the Westmount, West Island and Downtown Branches for lending us rooms for meetings.

To the Clouston Company for the loan of a drink machine.

To Tom Thompson for the donation of 4000 K.K. postcards.

HOPE

Look to this day!

For it is life;

The very life of life.

In its brief course lie all the varieties

and realties of your existence.

The bliss of growth;

The glory of action;

The splendor of beauty.

For yesterday is already a dream,

and tomorrow is only a vision;

But today, well lived,

Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Anonymous